

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01

GAC-01 SAJ-01 PM-09 /094 W
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1282

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVT: PROFILES OF PRIME MINISTER
AND FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS

1. THIS AND FOLLOWING CABLES CONTAIN PROFILES AND COMMENTS ON
MEMBERS OF NEW DUTCH GOVT SWORN IN BY QUEEN AT 2 PM ON MAY 11.
COMPLETE AND UPDATED BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW CABINET
MEMBERS
BEING
SUBMITTED TO DEPT BY AIRGRAM. SET OF GLOSSY PHOTOS OF
NEW CABINET POUCHED MAY 11 TO SHEINBAUM, WE.

2. PRIME MINISTER J. (JOOP) DEN UYL, LABOR, 53, FIRST
SOCIALIST PRIME MINISTER SINCE 1958. SON OF SMALL SHOP-
KEEPER. REFORMED PROTESTANT BACKGROUND. AFTER ECONOMIC
STUDIES IN AMSTERDAM WAS WRITER FOR SOCIALIST " HET PAROOL"
AND " VRIJ NEDERLAND". DIRECTOR OF LABOR PARTY RESEARCH
INSTITUTE. ELECTED TO SECOND CHAMBER IN 1956. SERVED AS
ALDERMAN OF AMSTERDAM WHERE HIS EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE LIFE
OF CITY ATTRACTED BI- PARTISAN PRAISE. LEADER OF OPPOSITION
IN SECOND CHAMBER. LED HIS PARTY' S CANDIDATE LIST IN
NATIONAL ELECTIONS OF 1967, 1971 AND 1972. SAW HIS PARTY
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SURVIVE DEFECTION OF OLDER AND MORE MODERATE MEMBERS (DS-'70)
AND TOOK INCREASINGLY MORE LEFTIST POSITIONS IN RESPONSE
TO GROWING RADICALIZATION OF HIS PARTY CADRE AND RANK AND
FILE. THIS CULMINATED IN LABOR PARTY CONGRESS IN OCTOBER
1972 IN WHICH PARTY FORBADE LEADERSHIP TO NEGOTIATE WITH
CONFESSIONALS AFTER ELECTIONS AND TOOK RADICAL STANDS ON
NATO, NUCLEAR ARMAMENT IN NETHS, ETC. CRITICIZED BY
MODERATES IN PARTY FOR NOT EXERCISING MORE LEADERSHIP AND
NOT STANDING UP TO RADICALS WITHIN PARTY. ACTIVE MEMBER
OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND ADMIRER OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT.
BASICALLY WELL DISPOSED TO US WHICH HE HAS VISITED AS
LEADER GRANTEE BUT HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US VIETNAM POLICY.
BEFORE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SAID HE PREFERRED ELECTION
OF SENATOR MCGOVERN. MARRIED, 7 CHILDREN. PRODIGIOUS
WORKER WHO CAN GET BY WITH AS LITTLE AS 5 HOURS SLEEP.
PLAYS TABLE TENNIS FOR RELAXATION. OMNIVOROUS READER
WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY. FEW VERY CLOSE FRIENDS OR COLLAB -
ORATORS. RELIES ON SMALL AND RATHER JUNIOR BRAIN TRUST.
USUALLY RUNS BEHIND SCHEDULE AND GENERALLY PROJECTS RUMPLED,
NOT TO SAY DISHEVELED, APPEARANCE. IS NOT HAPPY AT HAVING
TO RULE WITH CONFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION IN CABINET BUT AS
POLITICAL REALIST APPRECIATES FURTHER PERIOD OF OPPOSITION
COULD PERMANENTLY DAMAGE PARTY BY INCREASING STRENGTH OF ITS
RADICAL WING AND THEREBY FORECLOSE HIS CHANCE OF BECOMING PM.
APPRECIATES SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NETHS BESET WITH AND
UNDER NO ILLUSION NETHS RIPE FOR ANY INSTANT " NEW DEAL".
WILL PROBABLY MOVE CAUTIOUSLY AT FIRST, FEELING HIS WAY
AND GETTING MEASURE OF HIS CABINET AND THE PARLIAMENT.
HAS SAID HIS CABINET MIGHT LAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS BUT
WILL MAKE NO FIRM PREDICATIONS. AFTER A POLITICAL LIFETIME
IN THE OPPOSITION DEN UYL' S FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WILL
BE TO SAMPLE THE JOYS OF BEING IN COMMAND, AT LEAST AS MUCH
AS HIS " REFORMED CONSCIENCE" WILL ALLOW HIM.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MAX VAN DER STOEL, LABOR, 48 FIRST
SOCIALIST FOREIGN MINISTER IN DUTCH HISTORY. LEIDEN EDU-
CATED. MARRIED TO DIPLOMAT' S DAUGHTER. INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARY OF DUTCH LABOR PARTY
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